

The Reason

Scene 1 (In a library scene, John & Sarah looking over books while Ms. Chartier works on the checkout counter.)

John: There are so many good books here... I don't know what to choose...

Sarah: I know...

John: Why don't we go over and check in the section with the featured books.

Sarah: Good idea.

(They walk to a section with many new "interesting" books. In the middle of all the "new" books there is an old Bible. John picks up the Bible and says the following line.)

John: Why would this book be here? It's really old looking.

Sarah: It's in with the featured books it must be good. Let's check it out.

Sarah: Hmm... (opens the Bible to Isaiah) It looks like a bunch of smaller books compiled into one!

John: What does that say?

Sarah: Well this part looks kind of interesting I don't quite know what it means:

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

John: Who is this talking about? I mean, those are really big words.

Sarah: Well obviously this is talking about a guy who did a lot of stuff for us. Aside from that I am not sure...

John: why don't we ask Miss. Chartier...

Sarah: okay.

(Walk to the other side of the library and meet Miss. Chartier at her desk)

John: We found this really weird book with some crazy words in it. We don't quite know what it means, do think you could help us?

Ms. Chartier: Sure let me see.... Actually this book is really important it has a lot of rules that can help us with our life. I think the part you were reading about that might have been confusing to you is found in Isaiah chapter 53 verses Verses 4 and 5.

Sarah: I think so.

Ms. Chartier: In order to fully understand what this text is saying, why don't we go to the New Testament and read the story of the man this verse is talking about.

John: What's the New Testament?

Ms. Chartier: So, the Bible is divided into two parts: the New Testament and the Old Testament. The Old Testament is before Jesus was born in the New Testament is after Jesus was born.

Sarah: Who is Jesus? I never heard of him before.

Ms. Chartier: Let's just get started reading and I think your questions will be answered.

(Miss Chartier pulls two more Bibles from the shelf and hands them to the kids)

Ms. Chartier: The story starts a long time ago, about 2,000 years to be exact. I'm going to start reading from Luke chapter 1. I can help you find it if you'd like.

John: I think I got it. I just flipped through it till I found that you are going to read.

Sarah: Me too.

Ms. Chartier: Okay let's start then. I'll read first in verse 26...

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.

(Lights fade, End of scene 1)

Scene 2 (Biblical town, Mary's house, Angel and Mary are present when the scene starts.)

Gabriel: "*The* Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you"

Mary: "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to what you said."

(Gabriel exits in an angelic manner)

(lights fade out)

(no lights, voice only)

Ms. Chartier: After this conversation with the angel, Mary decided to take a long journey to see a relative. Elizabeth lived very far away, so when she got there, Elizabeth was very excited.

(lights Fade in to Elizabeth's House)

Elizabeth: Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb!

Mary: "My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy *is* His name.

(Mary and elizabeth act like they are cooking and having a good time while Ms. Chartier speaks)

Ms. Chartier: And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

Elizabeth: Bye, Mary! Thanks for coming.

Mary: Thanks, I'm glad I came.

Elizabeth: (joking) Don't get run over by a camel! The traffic is getting worse every week.

(Mary exits after she has packed her bags.)

(bible town. In this scene there will be no actors talking. Only Ms. Chartier will be narrating from the back)

Ms. Chartier: Luke chapter 2 Continues the story... it says...

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

(Joseph knocks on the door of the inn. Innkeeper opens the door.)

Joseph: Please sir we need a place to sleep for the night, do you have any room?

Innkeeper: (grumbling) No room here. (starts to close the door) Go ahead and sleep in the stable.

Joseph: But please sir... (innkeeper completely closes the door)

Mary: It will be ok Joseph, if it is the best we can get, it will be fine.

(lights go out)

Ms. Chartier: So with that they went to the stable! That night Jesus was born. It says in luke 2 verse 7...

(Mary and Joseph enter the stable with the baby jesus doll)

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Scene 3 (Jesus in the Temple)

Ms. Chartier: as Jesus grew up the Bible says in Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

One of the traditions the Jewish families had was to go to the Passover, Jesus' family was no exception.

(scene center stage, tables with biblical food Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and crowd walk in and sit down)

Joseph: My carpenter shop has been really thriving this past year, and with Jesus helping it is even better.

Elizabeth: that is what you always say.

Joseph: I know, but God really does bless us.

Mary: That he does!

Ms. Chartier: the feast went on as usual and when it was time to go, all the families gathered together to say goodbye.

(all say goodbye, Jesus "gets lost" in the crowd and heads to the upper center stage where the pharisees are already sitting looking at the scriptures...)

(Pharisees 1 & 2 are sitting in the set as Jesus enters. Jesus enters and sits down as they continue speaking)

Pharisee 1: As you can see, clearly this Messiah of whom the scriptures speak is coming as a great king in amazingly beautiful clothes such as we've never seen! I think he is going to be wearing silk.

Pharisee 2: No of course not, he obviously wouldn't be wearing silk. Sheepskins is a much better type of clothing. Definitely fit for a king!

Pharisee 1: Silk makes him look more important! He would rule the country much better and with more dignity if he was wearing silk.

Pharisee 2: No! I want him to buy the cloth from my best sheep.

Pharisee 1: The only reason you want him to wear sheepskins is because you're so selfish. I can't believe you'd think that way!

Jesus: Isaiah 53:2- And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

(when Jesus speaks, pharisees look surprised like they didn't know he was there)

Pharisee 2: See, He **is** going to be wearing sheepskins.

Pharisee 2: (look confused) Wait, where did you come from?

Jesus: The messiah is coming for a purpose, that purpose to save us. Isaiah 53:5 says

But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed

Pharisee 1: So... who is this Messiah?

(Mary and Joseph enter the upper stage through E4)

Joseph: Jesus! We have been looking everywhere for you!

Mary: Where have you been?

Jesus: Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?

(lights out)

Scene 4 (starts with no lights, just Ms. Chartier talking)

Ms. Chartier: Jesus was a very good and helpful boy as he grew up, when he was old enough, he got baptized by John and began his ministry. He then started preaching and teaching all around the countryside.

(nature scene with Jesus sitting down. People entering on all sides to hear him teach)

Ms. Chartier: Jesus taught many things.

(when Ms. Chartier finishes speaking, John and Sarah enter the crowd of people.)

John: Where are we?

Sarah: I don't know... it looks like someplace from the time Ms. Chartier was reading from.

Rachel: (looking confused) You must be new to this area, I mean everyone knows Jesus.

Sarah: Is that the man up there teaching?

Rachel: Yes, Shhhh, It looks like he is about to begin.

John: (quietly) where do we sit?

Rachel: Anywhere you want...

(crowd gets quiet)

Jesus: Then He said, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches."

And again He said, "To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

(leper enter and causes a commotion in the crowd)

Leper: Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.

Jesus: Am willing; be cleansed.

(as Ms. Chartier speaks Jesus acts like he is continuing to speak)

Ms. Chartier: When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

(Sarah and John are left on the stage)

Sarah: What was that?

John: Why ask me?

Sarah: (shrugges) Maybe Rachel would know.

John: Where did she go anyway?

Sarah: Uh, they all went over there.

(Rachel runs in from E2)

Rachel: Did you say my name?

John: Yeah, Where did you go anyway?

Rachel: With the rest, following Jesus.

Sarah: This guy MUST be special, everywhere he goes people follow Him!

Rachel: More than special. We just saw Him heal more people! Anyways, what were you going to ask me?

Sarah: What was that? How did He... (voice trails off)

Rachel: Why ask me? How do you suppose I know?

(lights black)

Scene 5 (Jesus enters through E1 into the city. As he enters people come around him including Sarah and John)

Crowd: Jesus is here! Jesus is here.

Blind Man: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!

Crowd: Be quiet! (all pushing to be nearest to Jesus)

Blind Man: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!

(Jesus Pushes through the crowd to the blind man and puts his hand on him)

Jesus: What do you want Me to do for you?

Blind man: Lord, that I may receive my sight.

Jesus: Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.

Blind man: Amen! Praise God!

(blind man runs off stage praising God)

(crowd astonished)

John: What was that?

Sarah: I think it was another of his miracles!

Rachel: Yep! He does things like this all the time!

Scene 6

(sitting by themselves Sarah and John are in the city stage area)

Sarah: So, who is this guy? I mean he performs miracles and does amazing stuff but those prophecies said he would die... I'm so confused...

John: Me too! How is this all connected?

Sarah: Lets see, this person is an old time magician, miracle man, Son of God, and so much more! But why do the prophecies say that the Son Of God would die?

John: I Just don't get it... maybe we should keep following the story.

Scene 7

(in the dark)

Ms. Chartier: Jesus did many amazing things in his life but the best one of all is still to come! You know, the real reason Jesus came was to save us, the Bible says in Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus came to save us.

One night one of Jesus' followers betrayed him. He was falsely accused and sentenced to death on a cross!

Sarah: Really? After all the nice things he did for people?

(Jesus gets hung on the cross by 2 soldiers.)

Ms. Chartier: Yes, he died to save you and me and everyone who believes in him! Even though He died, death could not hold him the best part is still coming up.

(one of Jesus' friends takes Jesus down from the cross. Placing him in the tomb)

Ms. Chartier: Jesus was buried and rested in the tomb three days just as He told them He would. Even though the disciples had listened at Jesus' feet they had missed what He said about His resurrection. They were filled with despair. Most had fled the terrible crucifixion scenes and were fearful of what the future would hold. Now, many of His followers were gathered together in the upper room wondering what would become of them. Early Sunday morning while they slept...

(Angel runs in from the back and rolls away the stone, Jesus comes out of the tomb. Jesus hugs the angel and the exits)

Scene 8

(in library, Ms. Chartier, Sarah and John are sitting)

John: Wow! He really loves us!

Sarah: Yes! I was thinking the same thing!

John: It all makes sense now! It is just Love!

(Sarah aimlessly flips through her bible)

Sarah: look what I found in 1 Corinthians 13!

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

John: That describes Jesus exactly!

Ms. Chartier: And that is **the reason** he came.

(all sit thoughtfully and the play ends)

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